



NORTHWEST STEM ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 5, 2016

Loess Hills Conference Room

Loess Hills Elementary School, 1717 Casselman St

Sioux City, IA 51103

Members in Attendance: Mary Trent, Nancy McDowell, Kathleen Bottaro, Linda Gray, Wade Weber, Sherry McGill, Derek Brower and Cheryl Heronemus.

Guests: Angel Mendez (Communications Manager, Governor's STEM Advisory Council), Layne Henn (Technology Consulting Teacher, Sioux City Schools), Polly Meissner (Traveling Library Media Specialist, Sioux City Schools), John Beeck (Principal, Sioux City Schools) and Janet Leifeld.

Members Absent: Jill Still Herbold, Barb Den Herder, Dr. Eric Forseth, Dr. John Bedward and Mark Zabawa.

1. Loess Hills Computer Programming Elementary School

John Beeck (Principal), Layne Henn (Technology Consulting Teacher) and Polly Meissner (Traveling Library Media Specialist) met with NW Iowa STEM Advisory Board members at Loess Hills Elementary School, recipient of the 2015 Code Iowa Award. Loess Hills Elementary is in its second year of existence as a computer programming school, with a goal of integrating coding into all subject areas.

School administration and staff worked directly with [Tynker](#) and [Kodable](#) for guidance in integrating coding components into existing curriculum, both companies which specialize in programming curriculum for elementary schools. During the first year, a cohort group of teachers began adding coding elements to curriculum. This year that role has expanded to all teachers. A leadership team is available to work with teachers by providing one-on-one assistance and offering professional development opportunities in coding integration.

Future plans are to provide professional development opportunities this summer and on select days during the next school year. They will also

examine screen-free coding activities. Data will be gathered to measure student learning and engagement.

- Students have gained confidence sharing their coding knowledge with peers in other schools and with visitors. 5th grade students demonstrated their coding skills working one-on-one with NW Iowa STEM Advisory Board members.
- Students are learning faster than anticipated so staff will be exploring additional coding options.
- Hour of Code Week – Provides students with an opportunity to showcase their coding talents with parents.

2. Angel Mendez, Communications Manager of the Governor's STEM Advisory Council met with the council to explain her role as part of the Governor's STEM Initiative. She provided examples of publications that are currently available for distribution, and offered support and assistance to advisory board members in promoting STEM activities.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, June 9; 2:30 – 4:00 pm;

Location: Sheldon Middle School, 310 23rd Avenue, Sheldon, IA 51201

- To join by computer, please click the following:
<https://uni.zoom.us/j/2973548501>.
- To join by phone, dial +1 (415) 762-9988 and enter Meeting ID: 297 354 8501.